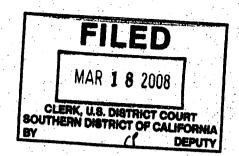
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UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT

SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,

civil 108 CV U5U2 JEG CAB

PETITION TO ENFORCE INTERNAL REVENUE SERVICE SUMMONS

SEBASTIAN JUAREZ,

Respondent.

Petitioner,

Petitioner, the United States of America, by and through its counsel, Karen P. Hewitt, United States Attorney, and Carol M. Lee, Assistant United States Attorney, petitions the Court for an order to enforce the Internal Revenue Service ("IRS") summons described below and, in support thereof, alleges as follows:

- 1. This proceeding is brought at the request of the Chief Counsel, IRS, a delegate of the Secretary of the Treasury, and at the direction of the Attorney General of the United States.
- 2. Jurisdiction over these proceedings is conferred upon this Court by the Internal Revenue Code, 26 U.S.C. §§ 7402(b) and 7604(a) and 28 U.S.C. § 1345.

- 3. Venue is proper in the Southern District of California because Sebastian Juarez ("Respondent") resides in this district.
- 4. At all times relevant, S. Silverman, who issued the summons to Respondent, was a Revenue Officer with the IRS, employed in the California Area, Long Beach Territory 1, Group 15, of the Small Business/Self-Employed Division of the IRS in San Diego, California.

  See Declaration of Revenue Officer S. Silverman at ¶ 1 ("Silverman Decl."). Revenue Officer S. Silverman was authorized to issue an IRS summons pursuant to the authority contained in 26 U.S.C. § 7602, and Treas. Reg. § 301.7602-1.
- 5. Respondent resides at 3622 Crown Point Drive, San Diego, California, which is within the jurisdiction of this Court.
- 6. On June 27, 2006, Revenue Officer Silverman issued an IRS summons directing Respondent to appear before him on July 13, 2006, at 9:00 a.m. at 880 Front Street, San Diego, California, to give testimony and to produce for examination the documents and records specified in the summons. The summons relates to the collection of Respondent's unpaid assessed personal income tax liabilities for the tax years 1999, 2000, 2003 and 2004 ("Collection Summons"). Silverman Decl. at para. 4. On June 28, 2006, Revenue Officer Silverman served the summons by handing an attested copy of the summons to Respondent. Silverman Decl. at para. 5. A copy of the summons is attached to the Silverman Decl. as Exhibit A.
- 7. On July 12, 2006, Respondent contacted Revenue Officer Silverman and asked that the summons appearance date be changed from July 13, 2006 to July 20, 2006. Revenue Officer Silverman agreed. Later, Respondent requested that the summons appearance date be

rescheduled again to July 21, 2006, to which Revenue Officer Silverman agreed. Silverman Decl. at para. 6.

- 8. On July 21, 2006, Respondent appeared before Revenue Officer Silverman; however, he refused to give any testimony, and he failed to produce the documents, records, and other information described in the summons. Silverman Decl. at para. 7.
- 9. On August 29, 2006 and September 8, 2006, Revenue Officer Silverman spoke to Respondent by telephone and requested that the documents, records, and other information described in the summons be provided, however, Respondent continued to fail to do so. Silverman Decl. at para. 8.
- 10. On October 6, 2006, attorney Mindy S. Meigs of the Office of Chief Counsel, IRS, sent Respondent a letter and directed him to appear before Revenue Officer Silverman on October 26, 2006, at 11:00 a.m. at 880 Front Street, Room 3293, in San Diego, California. Silverman Decl. at para. 9.
- 11. On October 26, 2006, Respondent did not appear before Revenue Officer Silverman. Silverman Decl. at para. 10.
- 12. On December 19, 2006, Revenue Officer Silverman left a telephone message for Respondent requesting that he contact him as soon as possible regarding the summons. On January 3, 2007, Revenue Officer Silverman and Respondent spoke and agreed to meet in two days, on January 5, 2007. Revenue Officer Silverman requested that Respondent bring all the documents, records, and information requested in the summons. On January 5, 2007, Respondent contacted Revenue Officer Silverman by telephone and informed him that he would not be able to attend the meeting and they rescheduled the meeting to January 9, 2007. However, again, on January 9, 2007, Respondent did

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not appear for the scheduled meeting, nor did he contact Revenue Officer Silverman. Silverman Decl. at para. 11.

- 13. On March 2, 2007, Revenue Officer Silverman contacted Respondent and they arranged to meet on March 7, 2007, and Revenue Officer Silverman requested that he bring all the documents, records, and information requested in the summons. Unfortunately, Revenue Officer Silverman had to cancel the March 7, 2007, meeting due to On March 7, 2007, a representative of Revenue Officer Silverman's office left a telephone message for Respondent informing him that the appointment would have to be rescheduled. On March 8, 2007, Revenue Officer Silverman left a telephone message for  $12 \parallel \text{Respondent}$  and requested that he meet with him on March 9, 2007. 13 Respondent did not return the telephone call and did not meet with Revenue Officer Silverman on March 9, 2007. Silverman Decl. at para. 12.
  - On April 24, 2007, Respondent called Revenue Officer Silverman and again Revenue Officer Silverman requested that Respondent provide all the documents, records, and information requested in the summons. They agreed to meet on May 1, 2007. May 1, 2007, Respondent did not attend the meeting nor contact Revenue Officer Silverman. Silverman Decl. at para. 13.
  - 15. All administrative steps required by the Internal Revenue Code for the issuance of a summons have been taken. Silverman Decl. at para. 15.
  - In order to obtain judicial enforcement of an IRS summons, the United States bears the initial burden of showing "that the investigation may be relevant to the purpose, that the information sought is not already within the Commissioner's possession, and that

the administrative steps required by the Code have been followed . . <u>United States v. Powell</u>, 379 U.S. 48, 57-58 (1964); <u>accord</u>, 3 <u>United States v. Dynavac</u>, 6. F.3d 1407 (9th Cir. 1993). The burden on the Government is a "slight one" and may be satisfied by presenting the declaration of the agent who issued the summons and is seeking enforcement. <u>Id</u>. (citing <u>United States v. Abrahams</u>, 905 F.2d 1276, 1280 (9th Cir. 1990) (other citations omitted)). Once a prima facie case has been made, "a 'heavy' burden falls on the taxpayer" to show an abuse of the court's process or lack of institutional good faith, Dynavac, 6 F.3d at 1280, and respondent "must allege specific facts and evidence to support his allegations." <u>Liberty Financial Services</u> <u>v. United States</u>, 778 F. 2d 1290, 1292 (9 th Cir. 1985) (citation 12 13 omitted). This matter may be decided on the written record in a summary proceeding. Hotz v. United States, 96-1 USTC para. 50,097 at p. 83,363 (E.D. Calif. 1996). To be entitled to an evidentiary 15 hearing, a respondent must make some showing to refute the United States' prima facie case or present facts supporting an affirmative 17 18 defense. See Fortney v. United States, 59 F.3d 117, 121 (9th Cir. 19 1995).

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- 17. Revenue Officer Silverman is conducting an investigation to determine Respondent's ability to pay the income tax liabilities assessed against him for the tax years 1999, 2000, 2003 and 2004. Silverman Decl. at para. 3.
- 18. Section 7602(a) of the Code specifically allows the issuance of a summons for the purpose of "determining the liability of any person for any internal revenue tax . . . or collecting any such liability . . . ." 26 U.S.C. §7602(a). Therefore, Revenue Officer

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Silverman's investigation is being conducted pursuant to a legitimate purpose specifically authorized by statute.

- 19. Further, the testimony, books, papers, records, or other data sought by the summons are not already in the possession of the IRS, with the exception of the bank statements called for in the summons which were obtained from third-party record keepers, Silverman Decl. at para. 15, and the administrative steps required by the Code, including proper service, have been followed. <u>Id</u>. at paragraphs 4, 5, and 12.
- 20. Respondent is in possession and control of the testimony and documents concerning the above-described investigation.
- 21. The Internal Revenue Code permits the Secretary to summon the records of any person "which may be relevant or material" to the investigation. 26 U.S.C. § 7602(a)(1). It is well-settled that to satisfy the relevancy requirement set forth in <a href="Powell">Powell</a>, the United States must demonstrate that the summoned information may throw light on the subject of the investigation. <a href="Abrahams">Abrahams</a>, 905 F.2d at 1281; United States v. Arthur Young & Co., 465 U.S. 805, 813-14, n. 11 (1984). This standard necessarily presents a low threshold because of the inherent difficulties in ascertaining, prior to examination, how much use the summoned records will be in determining the collectibility of a person's tax liability and whether a person has an income tax liability for a specific period. The Supreme Court has observed that:

[a]s the language of §7602 clearly indicates, an IRS summons is not to be judged by the relevance standards used in deciding whether to admit evidence in federal court . .

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. The language 'may be' reflects Congress' express intention to allow the IRS to obtain items of even potential relevance to an ongoing investigation, without reference to its admissibility. The purpose of Congress is obvious: the Service can hardly be expected to know which data will be relevant until it is procured and scrutinized.

Arthur Young & Co., 465 U.S. at 814 (internal citation omitted) (emphasis in the original). This low threshold of relevance also follows from the language of the Code, which authorizes the investigation of persons who "may be liable" for taxes. 26 U.S.C. § 7601.

- Under the instant circumstances, it is clear that the summoned material is relevant. The purpose of Revenue Officer Silverman's investigation is to determine Respondent's ability to pay the income tax liabilities assessed against him for the tax years 1999, 2000, 2003, and 2004. The Collection Summons seeks, among other things, " . . . all bank statements, checkbooks, canceled checks, savings passbooks, account records, or certificates of deposit . . . . " Silverman Decl. at Exhibit A (Collection Summons). The documents sought by this summons are clearly relevant to the determination of the collectibility of Respondent's income tax liabilities for the years 1999, 2000, 2003, and 2004.
- 23. There is no Department of Justice referral for criminal prosecution in effect with respect to Respondent. Silverman Decl. at para. 17.

WHEREFORE, the United States requests that:

1. The Court enter an order directing Respondent, Sebastian Juarez, to show cause, if any, why he should not comply with and obey

the above-described summons (Silverman Decl. at Exhibits A) served on him personally on June 28, 2006, and each and every requirement thereof, by ordering the attendance, testimony, and production of the books, papers, records, and other data required and called for by the terms of the summons before Revenue Officer S. Silverman, or any other proper officer or employee of the Internal Revenue Service at such time and place as may be fixed by Revenue Officer Silverman or any other proper officer or employee of the Internal Revenue Service.

- 2. That the United States recover the costs and expenses incurred in maintaining this action against Respondent.
- 3. That the Court grant such other and further relief as may be required.

DATED: 3/18/08

KAREN P. HEWITT
United States Attorney

Carol M. Lee

Assistant U.S. Attorney



## **Collection Information Statement**

In the matter of Sebastia	ın Juarez 5030 San Joaquin Driv	e San Diego, Ca 921	109		
Internal Revenue Service	(Identify Division) Small Busine	ss/Self Employed			
Industry/Area (Identify by	number or name) Small Busines	ss/Self Employed - C	alifornia Area		-
Periods Form 1040, U.S.	Individual Income Tax Return for	the calendar years e	nding Decemb	er 31. 1999, Decem	ber 31, 2000,
December 31, 2003 and	ecember 31, 2004.		11		
To_Sebastian Juarez	The Commission	oner of Internal Rev	enue .		
At 5030 San Joaquin Drive	e San Diego, Ca 92109				
the following information related to	equired to appear before <u>S. Silverman</u> , an the collection of the tax liability of the pe calendar years ending December	rson identified above for t	he periods shown:	Form 1040, U.S. Ir	ndividual
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Business address and te	lephone number of IRS officer befo	ore whom you are to a	ppear:		
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Place and time for app	earance at: <u>880 Front Street Ro</u>	om 3293, San Diego	, Ca 92101		·
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Department of the Treasury Internal Revenue Service	I lilvena		Re	evenue Officer	
www.irs.gov	Signature of Issuing Officer			Title	
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	Signature of Approving Officer (if a	applicable)	<del>.</del>	Title	



## **Certificate of Service of Summons**

(Pursuant to section 7603, Internal Revenue Code)

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## **CIVIL COVER SHEET**

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